

## Item 10 (iv) Question Time

### Response to Councillor Maxine Smith from the Convener

I can confirm that 5,898 (68.4%) Non Domestic Rates accounts have Small Business Bonus Scheme relief (SBBS), out of a potential total of 8,627 businesses in Highland.

The remaining 31.6% will be in relation to those businesses that may not wish to apply or do not qualify as they have other business interests in Scotland.

To maximise the take-up of SBBS, the Highland Council has taken action to advertise SBBS on radio, in community and business magazines, on plasma screens across a number of Service Points and in the NDR Booklet that is issued to every business operating in Highland.

Breakdown is as follows:

<u>Rateable Values</u>	<u>£8,000 (100% SBBR)</u>	<u>£8,001 – 10,000 (50%)</u>	<u>£10,001 – 15,000 (25%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Claiming	5186	296	416	5898
Potential still to claim	2365	144	220	2729
Total	7551	440	636	8627
Percentage	68.7%	67.3%	65.4%	68.4%